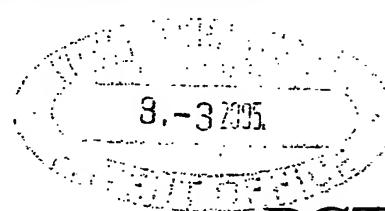


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY



To: ITOH, Tadahiko 32nd Floor, Yebisu Garden Place Tower, 20-3, Ebisu 4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 1506032 Japan

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)**

		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02.8.2005
Applicant's or agent's file reference R05015PCT		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2005/008267	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.04.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.04.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int.Cl' B41J2/01, B65H5/00		
Applicant RICOH COMPANY, LTD.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion 13.07.2005		
Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Shinichi Shimada	3B 3616
Telephone No. +81-3-3581-1101 Ext. 3320		

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008267

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

in written format
 in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008267

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

D1: EP 1238812 A1 (RICOH CO., LTD.) 2002.09.11, page 9, paragraphs 0058 and 0059; Figs. 2 and 3 & US 2002/0126193 A1 & JP 2003-103857 A

D1 discloses

an image forming apparatus comprising:
a conveyance belt that conveys a recording medium by attracting the recording medium by an electrostatic force; and
a recording head that discharges liquid droplets toward the recording medium being conveyed by the conveyance belt at a predetermined conveyance speed,
wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises:
charging means for applying alternating positive and negative electric charges onto said conveyance belt.

However, none of the prior art documents discloses the above-mentioned image forming apparatus further comprises means for controlling conveyance speed in accordance with charge period length or existence of charge on the conveyance belt, and this image forming apparatus is not derivable from the prior art.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008267

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

- Page 13, line 24: "an idle pulley 6b" (There is no member numbered 6b in Fig. 2.)
- Page 16, line 3: "the conveyance roller 21" (The conveyance roller is referred to as 27 in the rest.)
- Page 17, line 19: " Ω/\square " (" Ω/\square " is not a unit of volume resistivity.)
- Page 19, line 7 and 10: "separation pad 74" (There is no member numbered 74 in Fig. 1.)
- Page 23, line 13: "the printer drive 91"
- Page 24, line 6: "The head driver 107" (In line 18 on page 23 of the description, number 107 is assigned to the head drive control part.)
- Page 25, line 6: "A descript6oin will be give,"
- Fig. 8: Fig. 8 is not consistent with the paragraph beginning from line 23 on page 32 of the description.
- Fig. 15: "CHARGE PERIOD LENGTH" displayed in Fig. 15 is not consistent with the definition of "charge period length" given in lines 22-25 on page 26 of the description.